

THE BRITISH SOVIET FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY



presents




SOVIET DANCERS



IN BRITAIN



in action photographs



ONE SHILLING AND SIXPENCE

I N T R O D U C T I O N

ON only two occasions since 1917 have Soviet dancers visited Great Britain. The first occasion was in 1936, when Tamara Hanum came to Britain as the guest of the English Folk Dance and Song Society. The second occasion was in November, 1953, when Soviet

dancers formed part of a cultural delegation of twenty-seven who took part in British-Soviet Friendship Month, organised by the British Soviet Friendship Society, the Society for Cultural Relations with the U.S.S.R., and the Scotland-U.S.S.R. Friendship Society.

Though the Soviet dancers came in November, 1953, at very short notice, it was possible for some of them to perform all over Britain. In London they appeared at the Royal Festival Hall, the Royal Albert Hall and the Stoll, Scala and Poplar Civic Theatres. Some of them danced in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dundee, Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff and other towns. The folk dancers also performed on television.

We are glad to be able to present this souvenir of their visit. On the following pages are pictures of:

ALLA SHELEST, ballerina of the Kirov State Opera and Ballet Theatre, Leningrad (formerly the Mariinsky Theatre). Alla Shelest dances leading roles in Khachaturian's *Gayaneh*, Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*, Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* and other ballets. In Britain she danced excerpts from *Swan Lake*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Sleeping Beauty*, and waltzes by Strauss and Shostakovich.

KONSTANTIN SHATILOV, a young dancer from the Kirov State Opera and Ballet Theatre, Leningrad, who partnered Alla Shelest throughout their stay in Britain. As a solo artist he danced Variations from *Esmeralda*, by Pugni.

GEORGI FARMANYANTZ, the leading male dancer at the Bolshoi State Opera and Ballet Theatre, Moscow, who is also the outstanding contemporary male dancer in the U.S.S.R. In Britain his repertoire included Variations from Pugni's *Bayaderki*, Variations from *The Flames of Paris* by Asafiev, and a Ukrainian dance from *Taras Bulba* by Solovoy-Sedoy.

During their tour of Britain these Soviet ballet dancers were usually accompanied on the piano by **IRINA ZAITSEVA**, also of the Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow.

In London, however, they performed at the Royal Albert Hall with a section of the London Symphony Orchestra under Leighton Lucas.

GALYA IZMAILOVA, a leading ballerina of the Uzbek State Opera and Ballet Theatre, Tashkent, and also a dancer of folk dances. She is responsible for her own choreography in the two Uzbek dances, *The Seamstress* and *The Cotton Harvest*, and also in *Zang* (a Tadjik bell dance), which delighted British audiences. Galya Izmailova is also studying in the Producers' Faculty of the State Theatre Institute of Uzbekistan. Izmailova was accompanied throughout her tour by

AVNER BARAYEV on the Uzbek national instrument, the doira (or, in Russian, the buben). Barayev is also a soloist of the Uzbek State Opera and Ballet Theatre.

ANDREI KLIMOV, **PYOTR SOROKIN** and **VLADIMIR SHUBARIN**, a young dance trio from the Piatnitsky Song and Dance Ensemble, which numbers about two hundred artists. All three graduated to professional status from amateurs, and Klimov and Sorokin are already Stalin Prize-winners. They were accompanied in Russian folk dances by **VLADIMIR KHAPERSKY** on the accordion.



Alla Shelest in a waltz
by Shostakovich.



Alla Shelest and Konstantin Shatilov in an
excerpt from Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*.



(Above, left) Alla Shelest in the Strauss waltz *Tales from the Vienna Woods*. (Right) Alla Shelest and Konstantin Shatilov in a Shostakovitch waltz





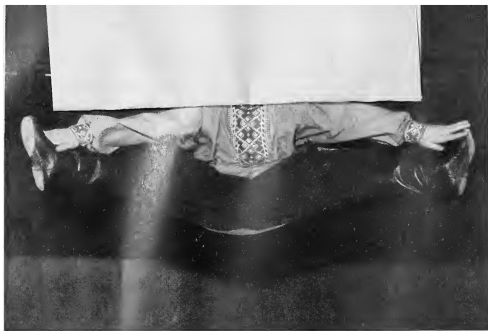
(Above left, and left) Georgi Farnyantz in the Ukrainian Dance from the ballet *Taras Bulba* by Solovyov-Sedoy; and (above, right) two photographs taken during his performance of the *Classical Variations* by Pagni.





Galya Izmailova in Uzbek and Tadjik folk dances, accompanied by Avner Barayev on the doira. Among the dances Izmailova performed in this country were *The Cotton Dance*, depicting the growth of Uzbekistan's cotton crop from the seed to the final harvest; *The Seamstress*, a dance of a girl embroidering a waist-scarf for her lover; and a Tadjik *Bell Dance*. The choreography is her own. Avner Barayev, seen on this page as a solo artist, plays on one, two or three doiras –and, incidentally, juggles with them.





(Top) Andrei Klimov in a solo from a Russian Folk Dance; (centre) Klimov with Pyotr Sorokin and Vladimir Shubarin performing a Cossack dance ; (below) Pyotr Sorokin and Vladimir Shubarin.



The British Soviet Friendship Society is proud to have presented these great Soviet artists to the British people. A greater cultural interchange between our two countries can do much to increase international understanding and thus further the cause of peace.

The Society is concerned to foster British-Soviet friendship in all its aspects—in culture, in sport, in trade and in international relations. It stands for the fulfilment of the terms of the Twenty-Year Treaty of Friendship between Britain and the U.S.S.R. signed in 1942.

The Society publishes booklets and pamphlets on Soviet life and on British-Soviet relations. It issues a bi-monthly magazine, *RUSSIA TODAY*, and a fortnightly *RUSSIA TODAY NEWSLETTER*. It organises meetings, brains trusts, film shows and other events aiming at better understanding between our two countries. Members are entitled to free membership of the *RUSSIA TODAY BOOK CLUB*, through which a new beautifully bound Soviet book, usually a novel, in English translation, can be obtained monthly for the modest charge of three shillings. Membership costs 2s. 6d. per annum (minimum subscription).

In order to obtain further details of the work of the Society, or to join it, we invite you to write to the British Soviet Friendship Society, 36 Spencer Street, London, E.C.1 (CLERkenwell 4161).